New York State Integrated Pest Management Program

Implementation and Demonstration Report in Integrated Pest Management
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Demonstration/Evaluation of IPM Protocols for Cucurbits

Principal Investigator: Abby Seaman, Area Extension Specialist, Vegetable IPM

Cooperators: Laura Pedersen, Ontario, Yates, and Wayne Vegetable Program, Lee Stivers, Lake Plains Vegetable Program, Brian Caldwell, Tioga Co. Cooperative Extension, Mike Hoffmann, Dept. of Entomology, Cornell University, Tom Zitter, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Cornell University.

Background and Justification: A variety of cucurbits are grown by New York farmers, including pumpkins, winter and summer squash, melons, and cucumbers. These crops share many insects and diseases, although they vary in their susceptibility to individual pests. Results from the demonstration conducted in pumpkins in 1995 and 1996 indicate that growers following the IPM protocols can reduce insecticide and fungicide use and maintain acceptable crop quality, especially in rotated fields. In 1995, we demonstrated that the use of the currently recommended fungicide program increased profits in pumpkins grown for the wholesale market. Depending on the market and variety, not all pumpkin fields may need or warrant the full fungicide program currently recommended. We will try to work with u-pick pumpkin marketers this season to see if we can fine tune the recommendations for that situation.

Objectives:

1) Set up five split field demonstrations comparing current grower practices with the recommended IPM protocol in pumpkins, winter squash, summer squash, cucumbers, or melons.
2) Establish baseline information on grower insect and disease management practices in cucurbits.
3) Compare pest populations, pest management costs, and crop quality in the grower managed and IPM managed portions of the fields.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

IPM House
630 W. North St.
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
Geneva NY 14456
315-878-2353